

Message Text

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SUBJ: PROFILE OF THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR

1. TINA ANSELM, THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR, IS THE FIRST WOMAN CABINET MEMBER IN THE HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC. AS SUCH, SHE HAS BECOME THE OBJECT OF A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS NATION WHERE THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IS STILL IN A COMPARATIVELY RUDIMENTARY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.

2. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IS NOT EXACTLY THE EASIEST PORTFOLIO IN THE NEW MINORITY ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT, BUT MINISTER ANSELM IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE BEST QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THAT

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OFT EMBATTLED POST: SHE HAS BEEN UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR

THE PAST TWO YEARS UNDER BOTH MINISTER BERTOLDI AND MINISTER TORIS.

3. TINA ANSELMIS WAS BORN ON MARCH 27, 1927 AT CASTELFRANCO VENETO, IN THE PROVINCE OF TREVISO, WHERE SHE CONTINUES TO MAKE HER HOME. IN FACT, SHE COMMUTES TO HER HOME, WHICH IS NORTHWEST OF VENICE AND A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM ROME, VIRTUALLY EVERY WEEKEND OF THE YEAR. A HANDSOME WOMAN OF ROBUST, GENEROUS PROPORTIONS, SHE HAS NEVER MARRIED; SHE IS EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO THE CHILDREN OF HER SIBLINGS WHO CONSTITUTE A SURROGATE FAMILY FOR HER.

4. EDUCATED IN THE TREVISO AREA, ANSELMIS WAS ACTIVE IN THE ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE AT AN EARLY AGE. AS A "MESSENGER" FOR THE AUTONOMOUS BRIGADE "CESARE BATTISTI" (WHERE SHE SERVED TOGETHER WITH LUCIANO LAMA, NOW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL) AND FOR THE REGIONAL COMMANDANT OF THE /CORPO VOLONTARI DELLA LIBERTA/, ANSELMIS EARNED THE RESPECT OF THOSE PATRIOTS WHO WERE SIMILARLY ENGAGED AND WHO HAVE PLAYED MAJOR ROLES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITALIAN DEMOCRACY SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

5. ANSELMIS'S RISE THROUGH THE RANKS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICS HAS BEEN A STEADY ONE. AFTER EARNING A DEGREE IN LITERATURE AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF MILAN, SHE TAUGHT IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SYSTEM. SHE BECAME ACTIVE IN TRADE UNION AFFAIRS IN THE EARLY POST-WAR PERIOD, IN BOTH THE TEXTILE WORKERS UNION (1945-48) AND IN THE TEACHERS UNION (1948-55). SHE JOINED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE EARLY POSTWAR PERIOD AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN BOTH THE YOUTH MOVEMENTS AND THE DC-SPONSORED WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, ATTENDING THE FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF YOUNG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN CARACAS AND HELPING TO FORM, ALONG WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF SOUTH AMERICA, THE WORLD UNION OF DEMOCRATIC CHRISTIAN WOMEN.

6. SHE SPENT TWO MONTHS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1962 ON A LEADER GRANT WHERE SHE MET PRESIDENT KENNEDY. THE EXPERIENCE CLEARLY MADE A VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON HER. SHE FREQUENTLY GOES OUT OF HER WAY TO RECOUNT THE PLEASURE WHICH THE TRIP AFFORDED HER, AND TO EXPRESS HER ADMIRATION AND AFFECTION FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNITED STATES. HER CONTINUING ACTIVITY IN WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS LED TO HER ELECTION, IN 1969, AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNION, TO WHICH POST SHE WAS RE-ELECTED IN 1971.

7. MISS ANSELMIS HAS HELD POSITIONS OF INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SINCE AT LEAST 1958. IN 1968, SHE WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES FOR THE FIRST TIME, RECEIVING MORE THAN 40,000 PREFERENTIAL VOTES.

SHE HAS BEEN EASILY RE-ELECTED IN 1972 AND 1976, GARNERING MORE THAN 70,000 PREFERENTIAL VOTES IN THE ELECTION OF LAST JUNE.

8. POSSESSING A PERSONALITY WHICH EFFECTIVELY COMBINES CHARM AND DECISIVENESS, ANSELM I HAS WON THE ADMIRATION OF BOTH EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNIONISTS FROM WIDELY VARYING POINTS IN ITALY'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM. WHEN SOCIALIST MINISTER OF LABOR LUIGI BERTOLDI LEFT HIS POSITION IN 1975 (WHEN THE SOCIALIST WITHDREW FROM COALITION WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS), HE RECOMMENDED THAT ANSELM I BE NAMED TO REPLACE HIM. INSTEAD, HE WAS SUCCEEDEDLY MARIO TORIS WITH WHOM ANSELM I WORKED IN SEAMLESS HARMONY.

9. SEVERAL KNOTTY PROBLEMS CONFRONT TINA ANSELM I EARLY IN HER TERM AS LABOR MINISTER. NOT THE LEAST OF THESE IS THE TANGLED AND ENORMOUSLY COSTLY AIR TRANSPORTATION LABOR DISPUTE BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT PILOTS UNION (ANPAC) AND THE CONFEDERATION AIR TRANSPORT UNION (FULAT) WHICH IS SEEKING TO INCORPORATE ALL SKILLS AND PROFESSIONS IN THE AIR TRANSPORT UNDUSTRY INTO ONE LARGE UNION. IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT THE VERY CAPABLE AND EFFECTIVE TOROS WAS NOT RE-NAMED AS MINISTER OF LABOR BY ANDREOTTI BECAUSE HE HAD, PERFORCE, BECOME TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE ANPAC-FULAT DISPUTE (AND PERHAPS SOMEWHAT IDENTIFIED WITH THE FULAT POSITION) WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO RESOLVE IT.

10. TINA ANSELM I HAS SOME VERY DEFINITE IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO RUN A MINISTRY. NUMBER ONE, SHE SAYS, IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO SMOKING IN HER OFFICE. NUMBER TWO, SHE IS STAUNCHLY OPPOSED TO KEEPING THE LONG HOURS - PARTICULARLY IN TIMES OF MEDIATING LABOR DISPUTES -- WHICH HAVE BECOME ENDEMIC IN RECENT YEARS, "BECAUSE IT IS DANGEROUS TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT MATTERS DURING HOURS WHICH GO AGAINST NATURE: THE NIGHT IS FOR REPOSE, TO HAVE A CLEAR HEAD FOR THE DAYLIGHT HOURS". BEYOND THESE CARDINAL RULES, SHE IS KNOWN FOR HER IMPERTURBABLE AMIABILITY, HER HIGHLY UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPED SENSE OF FAIR PLAY AND TOLERANCE, BUT ALSO A DISINCLINATION TO SUFFER FOOLS OR TO INDULGE IN THE FACTIONALISM WHICH IS SO INGRAINED INTO THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM, THOUGH SHE IS GENERALLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE FOLLOWERS OF EX-PRIME MINISTER ALDO MORO, SHE SPEAKS VERY LITTLE ENGLISH.

11. IF TINA ANSELM I PERFORMS AS EFFECTIVELY IN HER NEW POSITION AS THOSE WHO KNOW HER BEST ARE CONFIDENT SHE WILL, POSITIONS OF EVEN HIGHER RESPONSIBILITY ARE NOT EXCLUDED FOR ITALY'S FIRST-EVER LADY CABINET OFFICER.

12. INCIDENTALLY, BOTH THE PROTOCOL OFFICE AND MINISTER ANSELM I'S OFFICE STATE THAT THE CORRECT ITALIAN TITLE OF OFFICE IS /IL SIGNOR MINISTRO/.BEAUDRY

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